

The peoples Outcry against the Oppressors, and Oppression of the times.

O England, England! Consider seriously what a sad condition thou art in; thy Parliament *[which should be the meanes of thy safety]* is become the meanes of thy destruction: they who were thy friends in casting down oppression, are now thy enemies in setting it up again, though under other names; and although they have late nere 7 yeares, yet what are we the better? Our oppressions are not removed but increased, and more burdensome, and are like to be worse, for the worse party decree all; so as they who are enemies to the Kingdomes safety, peace, and freedom, are ready to vote us, with our wives and children, into an extreame miserable and perpetuall slavery, and they say their wills are lawes, and none may call them to an account for what they doe; and if so, they may destroy and undoe the Kingdome by authority, and slay us by thousands without any cause or pretence of reason. If they command any wickednesse, it must be obeyed by their principle, who say, we are not to judge what is right or wrong. By this kind of blind obedience, we may do that to others, which we would have none do to us, as kill, p:unter, &c.

Great sums have been raised by Poal-money, lending, taxes, plundering, sequestrations, compositions, customes, excise &c. and yet the Souldiers, unpaid, maimed souldiers, widowes, and fatherlesse by war, are not taken care for and recompensed: the Excise is continued and abused, and is like to be a lasting burden: poor Sea-men are rackt to extremity, the custome as high as ever, yet scarce any convoy and protection of Marchants, which is the end of paying them, the money comes freely in, and they have as freely disposed of it to themselves by thousands; they find such a sweetness in having the Kingdomes treasure at their dispose, that they count it one of the priviledges of Parliament; they do what they list, and justify it by authority. But the reason thousands made themselves poor, was, that the Common-wealth might be made rich, and not that a few should make themselves rich & the Kingdom poor; much less rich by the peoples ruine. The people did not intend their Silver and Gold should have been sent out of the Kingdome, without their consent. And because we are not willing to be thus oppressed by tyrannie, some in authority are angry, & publish us to be their enemies, disturbers of their peace, contempters of their authority, seditious, factious, rebellious, &c. *[to deceive the people, and secure themselves, and their ill-gotten goods, and rule by tyrannie.]* Our answer is, that we love just authority, but hate all tyrannie in any

whomsoever. The Parliaments reasons for taking up Arms against the Kings illegall proceedings will justify the Army against them in their illegall proceedings,

There be many Reasons against the Armies being disbanded. 1. Because the well-affected party are put out of places of trust, and ill-affected put in (which is but a bad presage.) 2. The burdens and oppressions of this Kingdome are not removed (nor like to be by this Parliament, for they have told us it is their pleasure we should be imprisoned, &c.) 3. They are their best friends worst: yea, those who have preserved their lives, they suffer to be hanged for obeying their commands. 4. The whole Army are slighted, who have been the meanes (under God) to save this Kingdome from ruine and destruction. If now they be judged enemies, what may they expect when disbanded? 5. What they have gained abroad (with hardship and labour) is destroyed at home by some in authority. 6. There is no appearance of having that liberty the people paid for, & they fought for. 7. All other meanes with patience have been used; many thousands have petitioned for their rights and liberties, but they are so far from granting them, that they reject, slight, & scorn them; thus, the Petitions they burn by the hang-man, some of us they imprison. By this their practice they fully declare, they do not intend the welfare and prosperity of this Nation, but to rule and over-rule the people according to their wills and pleasures, which they call the prerogative power or priviledges of Parliament; so then it seems to be hanged, imprisoned, and undone, is the liberty of the subject. All in authority, are not tyrants, it is pity they should suffer: find out the tyrants, call them to account; it is better an hundred of them be destroyed, rather than the Kingdome should be endangered. And thus abused and enslaved, is it not fit the end and intent of a Parliament be recovered: the accounts of the Kingdome required, corrupt members (the Author of our misery) removed and punished: We trust the Army will be a meanes to redresse our grievances, it is pity they should want helpe and encouragement herein: they are friends to England, they have long endured the great hardships and extremities of warre, and often hazarded their lives for the safety of this Kingdome: such as condemn them, do ill require them: wee believe the Army will act only for the good of the Kingdome, and intend no prejudice to any just interest or proprietie in the Common-wealth, but to remove oppression, & rescue the oppressed from the wicked, and their plots. The Army hath occasioned the Parliament to reforme something already.

The common people are they that suffer, they are deluded, betrayed, and *[killed]* who are oppressed and burdened, but they (according to the true proverb, the poor men pay for all) therefore it concerns them to look about them, and consider well what they doe, or else they are like to rue it. We hear of sending for the Scots again, & that they are willing to lose their own Country, to gaine ours, and then they shall have what they come for (*all our goods*) so we heare of raising a new Army in the City to begin a new war. I thought we had had wars enough: let them fight that love it: such as are wise will take heed what they doe. Experience may tell you, (if you doe not know it) that wars are quickly begun, but not so soon ended: that it is dangerous to begin a new warre, especially with our good friends (whatsoever the Ministers say) the Army will not fight against the City, unless it first begin with them; if the City begin the fight, the City is undone: if the Army begin the fight, they are undone. I am confident, the curse of God & destruction shall come to that side, that shall do so wickedly, as to begin this war, but I hope if the City & the Army should be in the field neer each other, that they will be so wise as not to fight, but as friends to shake hands and love one another. O consider what a long and chargeable war we have had: how many thousands have been slain, yet we are not one penny the better, but much worse. Sure none are willing to begin a new war, but those who have gotten well by the old, and are so base as to make a trade of it, and care not who looses, so they gaine.

Read me, but do not conceale me, but forthwith give me to those that read me.

FINIS.